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REMARKS

The original claims have been canceled and replaced with new claims 12 to 19 better to point out that which applicant regards as his invention. The new ms are not directed to a purification process, but rather are directed to a continuous process for the production of a polyarylene sulfide, an apparatus for such production, and two method claims for detecting liquid levels during the course of polyarylene sulfide production.

The indication that certified copies of the priority documents have been received is noted. The Examiner indicated correctly that the case is a national stage application of a PCT application and applicant seeks clarification that a copy of the certified copy of the priority document has indeed been received from the International Bureau.

The rejection of all claims under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by US 5,898,061 as applied to the new claims is respectfully traversed. (It is noted that the PTO-892 listed US patent 5,895,061 to Gignoux directed to an in-line roller skate with a

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removable boot. Applicant asks that the record prior to allowance contain a proper listing of the reference cited and discussed here.)

New claims 12 to 16 are directed to a process for the continuous production of polyarylene sulfide in which the liquid level between a polymer phase and a solution phase in the separation vessel is detected by a vibratile process viscometer or a remote seal-type differential pressure oscillator; the liquid level is controlled at a desired position so that the solution phase does not mix with the polymer phase that is taken from the separation vessel. The process overcomes the prior art disadvantages discussed on pages 1 to 4 of the specification.

In the instant process, because the liquid level of the polymer phase can be accurately detected, one is able to carry out the process while maintaining the liquid level of the polymer phase at a low level while minimizing the time period for controlling the polymer phase residue and the time period in which the polymer phase is exposed to high temperature. Accordingly, the polymer produced by such a process has an improved quality; the polymer quality can also be stabilized

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because the liquid pressure fluctuations caused by external changes such as pressure fluctuation can be minimized; see page 24, lines 25 to 28 of the specification.

The cited patent, US 5,898,061, is a US counterpart of JP-A-09-328551, prior art discussed at page 3, lines 8 to 11 of the specification. (The disadvantages thereof are discussed at page 3, line 12 to page 4, line 7.) The reference discloses only a potentiometer-type level meter as a liquid level meter; see column 4, lines 43 to 56. This type of level meter has lifetime, accuracy, and cost disadvantages; see the specification at page 3, line 12 to page 4, line 3. A capacitance-type liquid level detector is the same as a potentiometer-type level meter, and the Examiner is referred to Comparative Example 1 on page 29, lines 15 to 21 and the discussion thereof.

As explained in the specification, the disadvantages of carrying out a continuous polymer production process of a polyarylene sulfide using a capacitance-type liquid level detector are overcome by using as a liquid level detector, a vibratile process viscometer or a remote seal-type differential

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pressure oscillator; the discussed claims are so limited. The advantages thereof are clearly shown by a review of the working and comparative examples in this case. The rejection should be withdrawn.

New claim 12 to 16 also patentably distinguishes over Bando '943 and Okamoto et al. '372.

The two cited US patent publications are not directed to a continuous process for the production of polyarylene sulfide with the claimed liquid level detection and, thus, do not preclude patentability of new claims 12 to 16. Claims 12 to 16 contain limitations not present in claims rejected over these references.

New claim 17 is directed to an apparatus for the continuous production of a polyarylene sulfide containing either a vibratile process viscometer or a remote seal-type differential pressure oscillator as a liquid level detector. The references do not teach or suggest same.

New claim 18 relates to a method for the detection of a liquid level by measuring a viscosity of a first phase by a

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vibratile process viscometer to detect a liquid level representing the interface between a first liquid phase containing a polyarylene sulfide resin and a second liquid phase that contains substantially no polyarylene sulfide. This claim also patentably defines over the cited art.

The Examiner stated that the viscosity of a polyarylene sulfide is disclosed in Bando '943. Applicant points out that in the present invention a viscosity of a first liquid phase containing a polyarylene sulfide is measured but the viscosity of a polyarylene sulfide itself is not measured. Bando '943 does not disclose measuring the viscosity of polyarylene sulfide to detect the liquid level. The claim patentably defines thereover.

As to new claim 19, it is directed to a method for detecting a liquid level by measuring a difference in density between a first phase and a second phase to detect the liquid level that is the interface between a first liquid phase containing a polyarylene sulfide and a second liquid phase that contains substantially no polyarylene sulfide. The claim also patentably distinguishes over the cited art.

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The Examiner is informed that an Information Disclosure Statement was timely filed August 11, 2005. The Examiner is requested to consider that document along with the instant paper.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in immediate condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

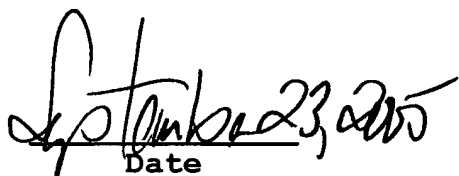
The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned should anything further be required in the case prior to formal allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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